

Amphibia, Anura, Hylidae, *Scinax nasicus* (Cope, 1862): Distribution extension

Fernando J. Carezzano and Mario R. Cabrera *

Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Departamento de Diversidad Biológica y Ecología. Avenida Vélez Sarsfield 299, 5000. Córdoba, Argentina.

* Corresponding author. E-mail: mcabrera@efn.uncor.edu

ABSTRACT: Two adult males *Scinax nasicus* (Cope, 1862) were collected when calling perched on the vegetation of the banks of a temporary pond near to extended soybean culture, in the surroundings of the town of Ucaha, province of Córdoba, Argentina. This new record confirms the presence of the species in this province, and extends 198 km to SW its range from the nearest previously known record.

The Lesser snouted tree frog, *Scinax nasicus* (Cope, 1862), is a small (up to 35 mm SVL) hylid frog with flat body and triangular snout, tympanum easily visible limited above by an oblique supratympanic fold, and slightly constricted neck. Well-adapted to climb, it bears adhesive disks on tips of fingers and toes and conical subarticular tubercles. This species breeds from late spring to late summer, onset of the rainy season in southern South America. Females lay jelly egg clutches on aquatic vegetation (Ceí 1980).

Mainly a Chaco dweller, it ranges from Mato Grosso and the Cerrado domain in Brazil, to Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina (Ceí 1980; Gallardo and Varela de Olmedo 1992; Lavilla and Ceí 2001; Achaval and Olmos 2007). Its southernmost distribution reaches to La Plata (34°59'05" S, 57°51'21" W; Figure 1, dot 5), at Buenos Aires province (Natale and Herrera 2006). In the province of Córdoba, at central Argentina, the species was first found at the locality of La France (31°25'08" S, 62°37'56" W; Figure 1, dot 1) (Giraudo and Gutierrez 1989). In this paper we report a second voucher record for the species at Córdoba province.



FIGURE 1. Southernmost voucher records of *Scinax nasicus*. 1-5 previously published records: 1, La France (Giraudo and Gutierrez 1989); 2, Ramallo; 3, Baradero; 4, Arrecifes; 5, La Plata (all from Natale and Herrera 2006). The red dot indicates the new record.

During a field trip conducted in January 2010 as part of a survey of anuran diversity in an agricultural ecosystem, two adult males of *Scinax nasicus* (Figure 2) were collected while calling at sunset in the surroundings of the town of Ucaha, province of Córdoba (33°01'34" S, 63°33'07" W; Figure 1, dot 6), northwestern border of the Pampean eco-region. Both frogs were calling perched on the vegetation of the banks of a temporary pond, about 1.5 m above ground (Figure 3). It is to note that in this pond local soybean farmers discard garbage, including empty agrochemical containers.



FIGURE 2. Adult male of *Scinax nasicus* from Ucaha, province of Córdoba, Argentina. Photo by F. J. Carezzano.

With this new record we extend 198 km to the southwestern the known range of *Scinax nasicus* as published by Heredia (2008), and we confirm the presence of this species in Córdoba province after twenty years of its first and only cite.

The specimens are deposited in the Herpetological Collection of Comparative Anatomy, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, under the numbers AC-542 and AC-543.



FIGURE 3. The collection site (environments of Ucha, province of Córdoba, Argentina). The arrow indicates the perch where one of the frogs was calling when found. In the near background, traffic on the paved provincial road 11. At lower right corner thrown garbage can be seen. Photo by F. J. Carezzano.

LITERATURE CITED

- Achaval, F. and A. Olmos. 2007. *Anfibios y Reptiles del Uruguay*. 3rd edition. Montevideo: Zonalibro. 160 p.
- Cei, J.M. 1980. Amphibians of Argentina. *Italian Journal of Zoology, Monografia* 2: 1-609.
- Gallardo, J.M. and E. Varela de Olmedo. 1992. Anfibios de la República Argentina: Ecología y comportamiento. *Fauna de Agua Dulce de la República Argentina* 41 (1): 1-116.
- Giraud, L.M. and M. Gutierrez. 1989. Nuevo género de anuro para la provincia de Córdoba. *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Argentina* 5 (1-2): 8-9.
- Heredia, J. 2008. *Anfibios del Centro de Argentina*. Buenos Aires: L.O.L.A. 99 p.
- Lavilla, E.O. and J.M. Cei. 2001. *Amphibians of Argentina*. A second update, 1987-2000. Torino: Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali. 186 p.
- Natale, G.S. and R.A. Herrera. 2006. Geographic distribution: *Scinax nasicus*. *Herpetological Review* 37 (3): 360.

RECEIVED: May 2010

REVISED: June 2010

ACCEPTED: July 2010

PUBLISHED ONLINE: August 2010

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Marcelo N. de C. Kokubum